

Appl. No. 09/932,659
Amendment After Final Rejection filed June 24, 2004
Response to Office Action (Final) dated May 5, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 11, 12 and 14-18 are currently pending and under examination.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 11, 12 and 14-16 are allowed and claims 7, 8, 17 and 18 stand rejected. Claims 1 and 11 are independent.

The Examiner is thanked for allowing claims 1, 2, 4-6, 11, 12 and 14-16.

In order to expedite the prosecution of the subject application, and without conceding either the propriety of the objections and rejections in the Office Action, or the need for amendment for patentability reasons, Applicants have cancelled claims 7, 8, 17 and 18. Such cancellation has been made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

In addition, claims 5 and 15 have been revised slightly to correct minor typographical errors.

The Objections to the Claims

Claims 7, 8, 17 and 18 have been objected to under 37 CFR § 1.75(c), as being of improper dependant form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Claims 7, 8, 17 and 18 have been cancelled, and so these objections are moot. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

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The Rejections
Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 7 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,388,818 to Anton, et al. Claims 8 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,498,005 to Oono, et al.

As stated above, claims 7, 8, 17 and 18 have been cancelled, rendering these rejections moot. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding objections and rejections have been addressed and are now either overcome or moot. Applicants further submit that all claims pending in this application are patentable over the prior art. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of those rejections and objections is respectfully requested.

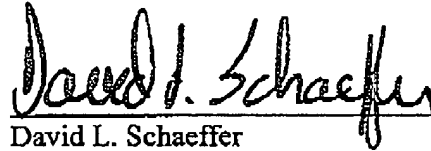
In view of the foregoing revisions and remarks, Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment and submit that entry of this amendment will place the present application in condition for allowance. It is further submitted that entry of this amendment can be approved by the Examiner consistent with Patent and Trademark Office practice, since the changes it makes should not require a substantial amount of additional work by the Examiner. It is believed that the changes presented in this amendment either address matters of form or issues that the Examiner has previously considered.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees now or hereafter due in connection with the prosecution of this application to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

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In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please contact Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David L. Schaeffer", is written over a horizontal line.

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